

**MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE  
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF RUSSIA**

**School of Government and International Affairs**

*B.A. in Government and International Affairs Program*

**«Approved»**

**Dean, School of Government and International Affairs**

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**POWER AND INSTITUTIONS IN WORLD POLITICS**

*Course Syllabus*

This syllabus is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor Program in International Affairs (program track “Government and International Affairs”).

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Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Mikhail Troitskiy

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## POWER AND INSTITUTIONS IN WORLD POLITICS

### 1. **The concept of Power and International Legality in the last 200 years` politics. Introduction and definition of terms.**

Definition of the scope of the course: the analysis of the dialectic between Power and International Legality through the last 200 years. The first lesson will be dedicated to understand the course key words: Sovereign Power and International Community, starting from the very foundation of the political theories in Europe, the ones of Niccolò Machiavelli. It will be stressed the difference between ethics and politics and the importance of analysing politics as a science.

- Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17)
- Rigaux, *Hans Kelsen on International Law*

### 2. **The principle of legality and the birth of the League of Nations.**

Starting again from Machiavelli`s ideas about political power and international relations, we will transpose these concepts into the juridical thinking, by analyzing Hans Kelsen theories both about National Legal Order and International Law: we will study how the new theory of law is applicable at the international level (monism). Moreover, we will discuss the importance of one of the basic norms of International Relations: the principle of Effectiveness.

Then, we will study the emergence of the conflict between National Interest and International Legality (the constraints International Institutions exercise on Sovereign States) by reading President Wilson`s Speech to the Congress and his idea of cooperation between Nations.

- Kelsen, *Peace Through Law* (Part 1, sections 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10) [PDF]
- Wilsons, Speech to the Congress, January 8, 1918

### 3. **The Vienna Congress and the Concert of Europe: balance of power and informal cooperation.**

This class will be dedicated to analyzing the big changes occurred in Europe from Napoleon defeats (and the collapse of the last European Empire) to the Franco-Prussian War (1870). Great importance will be given to the Vienna Congress and the new system of international relations between Great Powers, based on balance and cooperation, to keep Europe at peace.

Then, we will examine the cases of Germany, Italy and France in the context of liberal Revolutions across Europe (1948) and discuss modern concept of National States, Nationalism, Socialism and utopia for a change.

- Elrod, *The Concert of Europe – A Fresh Look at an International System*
- Selim Kurt, *The revolutions of 1848 and its reflections to modern political mentality*

#### **4. Bismarck's alliances system and Wilhelm II: two clashing visions.**

This topic will be dedicated to the analysis of two clashing visions, the one of Chancellor Bismarck and the other of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Prussia, who both had a great impact on Germany and on the whole European politics.

By the examination of the role of these two individuals we will deepen into the knowledge of what we have already studied in the previous lessons: the new interactions between Powers. The discussion will start from the complex system of alliances realized by Bismarck to assure a balance of power and maintain peace in Europe. Then we will focus on some important issues which changed the underlying assumptions by Bismarck and brought about a big change in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe: industrialization, colonization and concentration of power. In the end, we will discuss the causes of the collapse of the Concert of Europe and its consequences.

- Byman D.L., Pollack K.M., *Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In* (pages 16-20)  
<https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/bymanetalvol25no4.pdf>
- Slawson L., *Imperialism, revolution and Industrialization in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe* (<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Imperialism-Revolution-and-Industrialization-in-Nineteenth-Century-Europe>)

#### **5. The failure of the balance of power. Broad, near and imminent causes of the Great War.**

We will analyze some of the factors that led to the Great War, from the perspective of a failure of the balance of Power rule. In analyzing the causes of the war, we will divide them amongst imminent ones (final days of the crisis in Serbia), mid-term ones (the Balkan Question, the Ottoman Question); long-term ones (colonization, realignment of world powers). We will discuss this spread argument from different perspectives, historical and political.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes\\_of\\_World\\_War\\_I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes_of_World_War_I)
- <https://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/politics/entente-cordiale-1904.php>

#### **6. The end of the Great War and the necessity of a new instrument to keep peace. League of Nations: rigid structure and little power.**

At the end of the Great War, destruction was left in Europe. The Old Continent will never regain its international status. Central Empires disappeared, Nationalism changed the political structure of many European Countries. We will then discuss the different European stances for a new instrument to keep peace. A legal framework which can assure peace thru States' cooperation and legal enforcement. We will take into consideration Wilson's 14 Points and his idea of a Universal Organization of States based on open and non violent diplomacy. Moreover, we will discuss about the birth of the League of Nations and its collective security scheme and rigid structure.

- Christian J. Tams, *League of Nations*  
(<http://opil.ouplaw.com/view/10.1093/law:epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e519>)
- Snell J.L., *Wilson on Germany and the Fourteen Points* [PDF]

#### **7. The search for balance in between the wars inside and outside the League: containment and appeasement.**

In this class we will discuss the fragile European balance in between the war, the shortcoming of the League in assuring stability, the push for traditional diplomacy outside the League: from containment to appeasement and finally war. In particular, we will analyze the British foreign policy in the 1930s and Chamberlain's role in international relations.

- Trubowitz P., Harris P., *When States appease: British appeasement in the 1930s* (pages 16-37) ([http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/61659/1/Trubowitz\\_Harris\\_When-state-appease-British-appeasement-in-the-1930s.pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/61659/1/Trubowitz_Harris_When-state-appease-British-appeasement-in-the-1930s.pdf))
- Kissinger H., *Reflections on Containment* [PDF]

#### **8. Fascism, Nazism and the Second World War.**

This class will focus on the evolution of nationalism in Italy and Germany in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the birth of Fascism and Nazism. Then, we will talk about the Second World War; our discussion will focus on the economic and cultural background of the war.

- *Fascism* (pages 3-8) (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/fascism/Opposition-to-parliamentary-democracy>)
- Sontag R.J., *The origins of the Second World War* [PDF]
- *Twentieth Century International Relations* (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/20th-century-international-relations-2085155/World-War-II-1939-45>)

## **9. The United Nations and its Charter: a compromise between Power and Legality. The structure of UN.**

The Second World War showed the limits of the League of Nations and declared its failure. In this lesson we will approach the United Nations experience, the new instrument to avoid a new worldwide spread war. Specifically, we will analyze the mechanisms which let the organizations to work: Council and Assembly as two separate organs to adapt to international relations' effective reality, balance of power and legality.

- Frowein J.A., *United Nations (UN)* [PDF]
- Ekpotuatin Charles Ariye, *The United Nations and its Peace Purpose: an Assessment* (<http://journal-of-conflictology.uoc.edu/joc/en/index.php/journal-of-conflictology/article/view/vol5iss1-ariye.html>)

## **10. The Cold War: Balance of Power and International Legality. The role of UN.**

This class will focus on the new contest of Cold War and the necessity for a new balance of Power outside UN legal framework. We will analyze why the Security Council found itself in a stalemate position, not only because of the division in two blocs, but also because of other deep divisions between States (ex. Israeli situation).

- Hardwick N.A., *The UN during the Cold War: "a tool of superpower influence stymied by superpower conflict"?* (<https://www.e-ir.info/2011/06/10/the-un-during-the-cold-war-a-tool-of-superpower-influence-stymied-by-superpower-conflict/>)
- Afsah E., *Cold War (1947-1991)* [PDF]

## **11. Regional crisis in the Cold War Era.**

This class will be dedicated to the study of some regional crisis occurred during the Cold War Era; we will focus on how the UN faced with them, analyzing the achievements and the failures. In particular, we will investigate the cases of Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

- Costantin D., *Korean War (195-53)* [PDF]
- Nhu Dung Hopt-Nguyen, *Vietnam* (letters A, E, F, G) [PDF]
- *The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, 1979* [PDF]

## **12. The end of the Cold War and the UN. The ongoing debate on the reform of Security Council.**

The discussions will focus on the end of the Cold War as the end of the balance of Power external to the UN, its consequences on international stability, local and regional conflicts and on the

effectiveness of the UN. Then, we will analyze the ongoing debate on the reform of the UN Security Council as an example of the new balance of Power in nowadays world.

- Hogan N., *State sovereignty in the Post-Cold War Era*  
(<https://www.e-ir.info/2012/07/01/state-sovereignty-in-the-post-cold-war-era/>)
- Butler R., *Reform of the United Nations Security Council*  
(<https://elibrary.law.psu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=jlia>)

### **13. European Integration Process from 1951 (ECSC) to nowadays.**

In this class we will study a particular international organization, the European Union, from its embryo stage to nowadays, analyzing the reasons why it was created, its principles, its goals (maintenance of peace as the final goal) and the problems it is still facing. The dissertation will focus, one more, on the dialectic between National Interest and International Legality, trying to understand how 28 Sovereign States manage to maintain peace in the Old Continent for a very long time, thanks to an economic, legal and cultural system.

- Mayer F.C., Stanik I., *European Union – Historical Evolution* [PDF]
- Gordon L., *Nato and European Integration* [PDF]

### **14. COMECON: the communist answer to the OECD and the Marshall Plan.**

We will discuss the birth of COMECON (SEV, Sovet Ekonomičeskoj Vzaimopomošči) in 1949, its goals and its organization. We will analyse the evolution of the COMECON until 1991 and compare it with the European Integration Progress.

We will end the lesson talking about the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the new political and economic union between Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

- Korbonski A., *Theory and Practice of Regional Integration: the case of Comecon* (pages 942-957) [PDF]
- *Eurasian Economic Integration: factJHHs and figures* (pages 6-9 and 24-33)  
([http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/Documents/broshura26\\_ENGL\\_2014.pdf](http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/Documents/broshura26_ENGL_2014.pdf))

### **15. Middle-East: from the fall of the Ottoman Empire to nowadays.**

In this class we will discuss about the Middle East issue, analyzing it both with an historical and a political perspective. We will start from the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1923 and we will then discuss the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century situation; in particular, we will focus on the birth of Israel and its consequences in the East-Med relationships.

- Umar M., *The Decline of the Ottoman Empire*  
([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329365451\\_The\\_Decline\\_of\\_the\\_Ottoman\\_Empire/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329365451_The_Decline_of_the_Ottoman_Empire/download))
- Asirvatham E., *The birth of Israel* [PDF]

#### **16. Multi-polar or multi-drifting world?**

In the last class we will take discussions on practical cases of contemporary politics to find and debate long term trend we can now identify after the points discussed in the course. We will adopt different viewpoints for same international questions and talk about possible outcomes.

- Martynov Boris, *Multipolar or Multi-civilizational World?*  
(<http://intertrends.ru/system/Doc/ArticlePdf/218/Martynov-21-e.pdf>)
- Ferguson N., *A World without Power* [PDF]
- Rosecrance R.N., *Bipolarity, Multipolarity and the Future* [PDF]